

Contents

Prologue — XI

Acknowledgments and Editorial Remarks — XIII

Introduction. Eugen Comşa — XIV

My Father — XIV

Memories about Eugen Comşa — XVI

Childhood Memories about Eugen Comşa — XVI

Remembering about Eugen Comşa — XVII

Short Biography of Eugen Comşa — XX

Selected Publications by Eugen Comşa — XX

Monographs — XX

Articles — XXI

Jak Yakar

1 Food Production Modes in Neolithic Anatolia and the Neolithization of the Balkans — 1

Bibliography — 17

Alenka Tomaž

2 The Neolithic Site at Čatež-Sredno Polje — 22

2.1 Introduction — 22

2.2 The Scope of Paper — 23

2.3 The Site at Čatež-Sredno Polje — 23

2.4 The Stone Tools — 26

2.5 The Ceramics — 27

2.6 Considerations — 31

Bibliography — 32

Dragos Gheorghiu

3 Building and Burning: The Construction and Combustion of Chalcolithic Dwellings in the Lower Danube and the Eastern Carpathian Areas from the Perspective of Experimental Archaeology — 33

3.1 Introduction: The Problem — 33

3.2 The Diversity of Prehistoric Architecture — 34

3.3 The Building Process — 36

3.3.1 Foundation Trenches — 36

3.3.2 Walls' Wooden Structure — 37

3.3.3 Wattle and Daub — 38

3.3.4 Water and Construction — 39

3.3.5	Wooden Platform —	40
3.3.6	Ceiling and Roof —	41
3.3.7	Walls' Finishing —	42
3.3.8	Ovens —	43
3.4	The Burning Process —	43
3.5	Burning the House: A Reverse Process of Construction —	44
3.6	Conclusion: The Importance of the Experimental Approach —	47
	Acknowledgments —	49
	Bibliography —	49

Gheorghe Lazarovici and Marco Merlini

4	Tărtăria Tablets: The Latest Evidence in an Archaeological Thriller —	53
4.1	The Background: The Script-Like Signs Found at Turdaş and Vinča, Troy and Knossos —	53
4.2	Tărtăria Tablets as the Icon on the Possibility of a European Neolithic Writing —	56
4.3	A Pivotal but Questionable Discovery —	57
4.3.1	Four Stages for an Investigation —	57
4.4	A Magic-Religious Complex Discovered and Lost —	61
4.5	Why the Tărtăria Tablets are Dubiously Dated Archaeological Artifacts —	81
4.5.1	The Gossip about Radiocarbon Dating —	83
4.5.2	The Vague Stratigraphy of the Tablets Inside the Pit —	84
4.5.3	The Uncertain Location of the Pit Inside the Stratigraphy of Vlassa's Dig —	85
4.6	The Transylvanian Tablets as the Focal Point of a Controversy on the Chronology of European Prehistory —	87
4.6.1	Scholars Acknowledging either the Vinča-Turdaş or Vinča Assumption of the Tablets and the Radiocarbon Dating for the South-Eastern European Neolithic —	97
4.6.2	Scholars Reconciling the Tablets with Radiocarbon Dates Maintain that they could have been Intrusive from the Upper Strata —	98
4.6.3	Scholars Questioning the Authenticity of the Tablets —	100
4.7	Tărtăria Tablets as a Case of Serendipity —	101
4.8	Are the Famous Tărtăria Tablets Infamous? —	102
4.9	The Radiocarbon Dating of the Human Bones Found with the Tablets —	106
4.10	The Enigma of the Charred Human Being, the Cultic Sacrifice and the Cannibalistic Ritual —	116
4.11	The Puzzle of the Corpse's Identity —	120
4.11.1	Sex and Age —	120
4.11.2	The Height —	121

- 4.11.3 The Anthropological Type — **121**
- 4.11.4 Paleopathologic Aspects — **121**
- 4.11.5 The Posture — **124**
- 4.12 We are not Dealing with a Ritual Pit and a Votive Deposit but with a Consecrated Grave of a Novel Ancestor — **124**
- 4.13 Milady Tărtăria and her Casket with Magic Tools — **128**
- 4.14 Transylvanian Tablets and the Sacred Script for Initiates — **129**
- 4.15 Conclusions — **131**
- Bibliography — **135**

Cătălina Semuc and Alexandra Comşa

5 About the Prehistoric Burial Rites, Rituals and Anthropological Data in Dobroudja (Eneolithic-Iron Age) — 143

- 5.1 Introduction — **143**
- 5.2 Archaeological Data — **143**
 - 5.2.1 Early Eneolithic Period — **143**
 - 5.2.1.1 Hamangia Culture — **143**
 - 5.2.2 The Transitional Period to the Bronze Age and the Bronze Age — **150**
 - 5.2.2.1 Cernavodă III — **151**
 - 5.2.2.2 The Tumular Burials — **151**
 - 5.2.3 Early Iron Age (Hallstatt Period) — **157**
 - 5.2.3.1 Babadag Culture — **157**
- 5.3 Conclusions — **162**
- Bibliography — **165**

Gheorghe Lazarovici and Cornelia-Magda Lazarovici

6 A Copper Age Workshop for Gold at Cheile Turzii, Peștera Ungurească (Turda Canyon, Hungarian Cave), Transylvania — 168

- 6.1 Location — **168**
- 6.2 Short History — **169**
- 6.3 Stratigraphy — **170**
- 6.4 The Horizon with “Pastilatte Handles Pottery”/Scheibenhencel-Late Bodrogkeresztúr — **172**
- 6.5 The Construction — **173**
- 6.6 The Oven — **175**
- 6.7 The Archaeological Material — **176**
- 6.8 The Gold Jewelry — **177**
- 6.9 Conclusions — **179**
- Bibliography — **179**

Lolita Nikolova

7	Towards the Theory of Social Status: Cultural Parameters of Secure Social Status in Prehistory (a Cross-Disciplinary Approach) — 181
7.1	Setting — 181
7.2	Towards the Sociological Theory of Social Status — 183
7.2.1	Social Position and Social Status — 183
7.2.2	Formal and Non-formal Social Status — 186
7.2.3	Social Status is Mobile — 187
7.2.4	Social Status and Social Class — 187
7.2.5	Segmentation and Stratification, Ordinary and Elite — 188
7.2.6	Theoretical Synthesis — 190
7.3	Towards the Cultural Parameters of Secure Social Status in Prehistory — 191
7.3.1	Houses and Secure Status — 193
7.3.2	Burials in Settlements as Accumulation of Wealth — 195
7.3.3	Prehistoric Figurines and Secure Status — 196
7.3.4	Metal and Accumulation of Wealth — 197
7.3.5	Sedentarization and Mobility, and Secure Status — 198
7.3.6	Wealth and Secure Status — 199
7.3.7	Health and Social Status — 204
7.3.8	The Wealth of Learning — 214
7.3.9	The Social Mind and Security — 216
7.4	Social Complexity and Social Status: Yunatsite Culture Case Study — 217
7.5	Conclusive Summary — 228
	Bibliography — 229

Cristian Schuster and Alexandru Morintz

8	The Bronze and Early Iron Age Settlements in Romanian Dobroudja — 240
8.1	The Early Bronze Age — 240
8.2	The Middle and Late Bronze Age: The Coslogeni Culture — 240
8.2.1	The Range — 240
8.2.2	The Origin — 241
8.2.3	The Evolution — 242
8.2.4	The Habitats — 243
8.2.4.1	The Settlements — 243
8.2.4.1.1	The Types of Settlements — 243
8.2.4.1.2	The Location of the Settlements — 245
8.2.4.1.3	Size — 246
8.2.4.2	The Houses — 246
8.2.4.2.1	Types of Houses — 246
8.2.4.2.2	The Fire Installations — 247

8.2.4.2.2.1	Hearths —	247
8.2.4.2.3	The Metallurgical Installations —	247
8.2.4.3	The Pits —	247
8.2.4.3.1	Domestic and Storage Pits —	247
8.2.4.3.2	Ritual Pits —	248
8.3	The Iron Age. The Babadag Culture —	248
8.3.1	The Range —	248
8.3.2	The Origin —	249
8.3.3	The Evolution —	249
8.3.4	The Human Habitats —	250
8.3.4.1	The Settlements —	250
8.3.4.1.1	Location —	250
8.3.4.1.2	Settlement Types —	250
8.3.4.1.3	Size —	251
8.3.4.2	The Dwellings —	252
8.3.4.2.1	Pithouses and Semi-Pithouses —	252
8.3.4.2.1.1	Shape —	252
8.3.4.2.1.2	Size —	252
8.3.4.2.1.3	Orientation —	252
8.3.4.2.1.4	Depth —	253
8.3.4.2.1.5	Using Time —	253
8.3.4.2.1.6	The Pithouses Fitting Outs —	253
8.3.4.3.2	Surface (Ground) Constructions —	253
8.3.4.3.2.1	Shape —	253
8.3.4.3.2.2	Size —	254
8.3.4.3	The Fire Installations —	254
8.3.4.3.1	Hearths —	254
8.3.4.3.1.1	Location —	254
8.3.4.3.1.1	Shape —	254
8.3.4.3.2	Kilns —	254
8.3.4.4	The Pits —	255
8.3.4.4.1	Shape —	255
8.3.4.4.2	Size —	255
8.3.4.4.3	Functionality —	255
8.4	Some Concluding Remarks —	256
8.4.1	List A. Possible, Early and Middle Bronze Age Settlements in Dobroudja —	256
8.4.2	List B. The Coslogeni Culture in Dobroudja —	257
8.4.3	List C. The Settlements of the Babadag Culture —	260
	Bibliography —	263

Valeriu Sîrbu and Vitalie Bârca

**9 Figurative Representations on the Phalerae Found between the Ural, the
Caucasus and the Balkan Mountains (2nd-1st Century BC) — 272**

- 9.1 Diffusion Region — **277**
- 9.2 Archaeological Contexts — **277**
- 9.3 Materials — **278**
- 9.4 Cultural Environment — **281**
- 9.5 Chronology — **281**
- 9.6 Techniques — **282**
- 9.7 Shapes and Sizes — **282**
- 9.8 Inventory Associations — **282**
- 9.9 Ornamentation Types — **285**
- 9.10 Possible Interpretations — **285**
- 9.11 List of Discoveries with Figurative Representations — **293**
- Abbreviations — **318**
- Bibliography — **320**

List of Figures — 324

List of Tables — 328

Index — 329